

Minutes Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Committee August 20, 2008

Minutes of the Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting held on August 20, 2008, 4:00 p.m., Tempe Public Library – Board Room, 2nd Floor, 3500 S. Rural Rd.

Members Present:

Jim Mack, Chair
Carol McKnight, Vice-Chair
Sandi Hutson
Katherine Schmidt
Patty Tolson-Gonzalez
Eduarda Yates

Members Absent:

Fr. John Bonavitacola
Lois Love-Rizzo
Brad Olsen

City Staff Present:

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor - Parks & Recreation
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant - Parks & Recreation
Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation

Meeting convened at 4:00.

Jim Mack called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2008

The minutes of the April 16, 2008 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Maintenance Updates

Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager, discussed ongoing maintenance of the cemetery.

1. Fertilizer has been applied to the lawn sections of the cemetery.

2. A certified arborist was hired to determine the health of the trees in the cemetery.
3. Six pine trees will be replaced due to the Aleppo Blight.
4. Some of the olive trees need be replaced as well.
5. Community service participants have been working in the cemetery, performing tasks such as weeding and raking.
6. A new mower was purchased for the cemetery.
7. Pre-emergent will be applied again in September.
8. There was some erosion that occurred as a result of the recent heavy rains and it is being addressed by staff.

Agenda Item 4 – West Property Boundary Wall

Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager, provided an update on the proposed walls for the west perimeter of the cemetery.

1. Staff continues to work with T-Mobile to determine if they will agree to install a 6-8 foot wall between their property and the cemetery.
2. If the wall is erected, staff will work to have a matching wall installed that will extend to the south end of the cemetery on the west side.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The Master Plan included the installation of wall niches in the perimeter walls of the cemetery.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Art Update – Memorial Gardens

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, gave an update on the status of the public art feature that is being sought for the Memorial Garden.

1. Four (4) finalists have been chosen.
2. They were each given a \$2,000 stipend to create a model of their proposed feature.
3. The project committee will meet to review the four (4) models that have been submitted.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The models, at this time, are not open to the public.
- The finalists hail from four (4) different states, including one (1) from Phoenix.
- A consensus of the committee would have to be reached for the project to receive approval; otherwise it may be necessary to issue another RFP.
- The art feature will be placed in the center of the Memorial Gardens.
- The features may include sound elements.
- The committee discussed whether or not the proposals should be presented for public consideration.
- Katherine Schmidt said that she has faith in the Arts Commission and feels that the cemetery committee members that volunteered for the project committee will do their best to represent the Cemetery Advisory Committee.
- Carolyn McKnight feels that the public has a right to have input if their money is being spent.
- Shawn Wagner will talk to the Arts Commission to see what is allowed.

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

1. Elections will be held at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Chair/Board Member Comments

1. Pre-need sales have tapered off, while at-need sales continue.
2. Staff is working on future advertisement opportunities.
3. There have not been any recent reports of theft in the cemetery.
4. Jim Mack said the cemetery looks 10 times better than it did 10 years ago.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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